



## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Indiana School Corporations

**FROM:** Charlie Geier, Director of Early Learning and Intervention  
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**DATE:** December 3, 2013

**SUBJECT:** World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)

In accordance with the Indiana Department of Education's Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver, the Indiana Department of Education Announces New English Language Development Standards for English Learners.

The Indiana Department of Education has adopted the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Development (ELD) standards for English Learners. Through the implementation of the WIDA standards, Indiana will advance academic language development and academic achievement for linguistically diverse students. The goal of language development standards is to teach social, instructional and academic language skills to second language learners. The development standards support second language learners so that they may successfully engage with peers, educators and access fully academic content standards and curriculum. Implementation will begin in the fall of 2014 for the 2014-2015 school year.

Professional development will be provided throughout the state and will begin in the spring semester of 2014. The Office of English Learning and Migrant Education is working closely with WIDA and stakeholders to develop a thorough professional development plan to ensure a seamless transition. More information and a calendar will be forthcoming. The Indiana Department of Education will now start the process of exploring options related to the assessment of English language proficiency. The Office of English Language and Migrant Education will work closely with the Office of Student Assessment to ensure an appropriate and high-quality assessment is chosen.

If you would like to read more about the WIDA standards, please visit [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us).